

December 20, 2007

Statement of the
American Association for the Advancement of Science
on the
Fiscal Year 2008 Research and Development Appropriations

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the nation's largest general scientific organization, unites with our nation's universities, laboratories and businesses in expressing its disappointment in the appropriations for research and development (R&D) contained in the final federal budget for fiscal year 2008.

While we recognize that both the Congress and the White House face many competing priorities as they attempt to reach a compromise for final spending limits, we see a missed opportunity to honor the commitment made by both branches of government to support basic research, as articulated in the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) and the America COMPETES Act.

For the past two years, AAAS had seen impressive signs of collaboration between the branches of government and across party and regional lines on how best to meet the challenges of global competitiveness. Today, our nation's ability to invest in innovation and to enhance the economy, health, education and quality of life for all Americans has received a serious setback.